

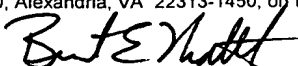


1FW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 21, 2005

Signature:

  
(Brent E. Matthias)

Attorney Docket No.: 06005/39710  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Ted D. Grabau

Application No.: 10/712,549

Filed: November 13, 2003

Art Unit: 1713

For: VULCANIZED RUBBER COMPOSITION  
AND ARTICLES MANUFACTURED  
THEREFROM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**STATUS INQUIRY**

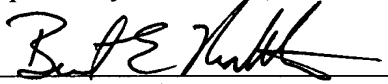
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Dated: January 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Brent E. Matthias

Registration No.: 41,974  
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP  
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300  
Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357  
(312) 474-6300  
Attorney for Applicant